

USRA News



Number 55

University of Saskatchewan

March, 2004

USRA EXECUTIVE 2003-2004

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PRESIDENT'S CHATTER BOX

Was Confucius a real person? I believe he was. I also believe that he was a visionary. Consider the following:

Confucius says, "Man who cannot laugh at funny things will have serious stress in his life."

Georgio Stephanopolus, the late sports writer says: "A laugh... a good belly laugh is worth three and one half stress pills." (And they are awfully expensive.)

If you want to relieve a bit of stress from your life and save some money on stress pills, come, laugh with us as we present an evening of information and entertainment.

President's Chatterbox continued on page four

Do you ever forget to pay your dues? An excellent solution is to take out a life membership.

Point of View

John Owen and Keith Johnstone raised the issue of mandatory retirement in the February, 2004 News and invited the USRA to initiate discussions with interested parties to bring U of S policy on retirement in line with that of other jurisdictions."

Edna and John Peters (College of Agriculture) wrote from Manitoba:

I am replying with respect to the issue of mandatory retirement. After I retired from the U of S I was fortunate to be involved in the establishment of the Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, a joining of three colleges into one entity. One college, the Canadian Mennonite Bible College, had a long standing policy of retirement, which the CMU was quite happy to retain.

Professors who reach the age of 65 had and have the privilege to continue on a one-third basis for up to five years. During this time they retain all professorial privileges with the opportunity to ease out of the work force.

It ends up in a win - win situation where the professor is able to draw back on his/her teaching load, continues to generate some income and can increase other academic pursuits while the institution has the flexibility of searching for a replacement immediately or if course offerings and availability permit to delay the appointment of a replacement thus allowing for a longer search or waiting for a potential candidate to become available. A delay also allows for budgetary adjustments if that is a necessity.

If you wish to contribute a "Point of View," jokes, or comments, please do so by e-mail to klein@duke.usask.ca or by post to Howard Klein, 3610 Balfour Court, Saskatoon, SK S7H 4B2.

Expect Phone Calls Inviting You to Attend the April 7th Evening of Laughter

The phoning committee will contact each member in Saskatoon and vicinity at least two weeks before the April 7th laughter event at the Faculty Club to urge you to attend. You can make a reservation immediately by leaving a message in the USRA office (306-966-6618) or by sending an e-mail (ss_usra@duke.usask.ca).

As well, the phoner will take your reservations. Tickets will then be picked up at the meeting room door.

Reminder: If you need to cancel, you must do so no later than April 4th.

If you take out a life membership, you will never have to send another cheque to the association. Isn't that a good idea?

LAUGHTER

Catullus (87 - 54? B.C.): Ah, what is more blessed than to put cares away...and laugh out aloud all the laughter you have at your command?

An Ontarian is the foreman at a lumber camp when a French Canadian approaches him, looking for a job. The foreman doesn't want to hire him but is afraid of being accused of bigotry, so he devises a test that he is sure the Quebecer will fail.

He gives him a piece of paper and a pencil and says,

"Without using numbers, illustrate 'nine'."

The French Canadian draws three trees.

The foreman asks him how that can be nine.

The French Canadian says, "Tree, tree, and tree; dat make nine."

The foreman says, "Okay, now for part two. Without using numbers, show me ninety-nine."

The Quebecer smudges the pictures and says, "Dere you go. Dirty tree, and dirty tree, and dirty tree. 'at's ninety-nine."

Now the foreman is getting worried, because it looks like he might have to hire the man. So he says, "Last test. Without using numbers, show me one hundred."

The French Canadian draws a little blob at the bottom of each tree.

The foreman says, "You're crazy! How can this represent one hundred?"

The French Canadian replies, "Well, you look around here, and you see how de dog crap at de bottom of each tree? Well, dirty tree and a turd, and dirty tree and a turd, and dirty tree and a turd make one hundred. When do I start?"

An unemployed Italian worker walks into St. Anthony's Church, approaches the big statue of St. Anthony, and says, "St. Anthony, today I've gotta find a job. I ask you to help me, okay? Thank you, St. Anthony."

He leaves the church and goes out searching for a job, but he doesn't find one.

The next day he's back in the church, talking to the statue. "St. Anthony, yesterday I ask you to help me find a job, and you didn't. Now, today, you gonna help me, okay? Thank you, St. Anthony."

He leaves the church and goes out searching, but he doesn't find a job.

This goes on for several days, with the man becoming more and more discouraged, and angrier and angrier.

Finally, he goes into the church and says, "St. Anthony, I give you one last chance. Today, if you don't help me find a job, I come back and I smash you to bits." He leaves the church without another word.

Two of the priests overhear the threat and decide they'd

Laughter continued on right

The Emeritus



*(Stat magni nominis umbra)**
THEY say of the Emeritus that it has been put out to pasture, having been horsing around long enough. This would seem an inviting prospect, with nothing to do but ruminate, but the Emeritus has time on its hands. # Unlike horses that are retired in the Outside World, the

Emeritus is not made use of on something comparable to a stud farm. It has its dreams, of course, such as the one of the curvaceous Student that came into its office and Or, once it got Tenure, of telling the Dean where it could go.

* He stands, the mere shadow of a great name. At least this is better than being shadowed by certain members of the Department that were looking for an excuse to force their colleague into Early Retirement and improve their chances for promotion.

Or, rather, on its wrist: the watch it was given at its Retirement Party.

Amour, Riichad (1974), *The Academic Bestiary*. William Morrow & Co., p. 62-63 (Illustrated by Paul Darrow).

Laughter continued

better get their beautiful statue out of there. They have it moved to a safe location in the basement, and put a much smaller statue in its place.

Much later, when the Italian enters the church, very angry and armed with a sledgehammer, he says, "St. Anthony, Ihey kid! Where's your papa?"

A young man in a frontier town was apprenticed to a blacksmith. The smith decided to start by teaching him to make horse shoes. He said, "I'm going to get the horseshoe from the fire and put it on the anvil. When I nod my head, you hit it with the hammer."

The blacksmith was out cold for two hours.

The USRA Executive thinks so, and, each year, you will too at the time dues are required. Pay for a life membership with a single cheque to enjoy all honours and privileges appertaining.



Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away and a sunny spirit takes their place.

Mark Twain (Created by caricature zone)

USRA PRESENTS

**LAUGHTER REMEDY
WITH
ELEANOR CHARMAN
AND
MICKEY MACLELLAN**

When: April 7, 2004 @ 7:30 P. M.

**Where: Faculty Club, University of
Saskatchewan**

**Ticket: \$10.00 per person
(included: non-alcoholic beverages, tea, coffee
snacks and cash bar)**

To reserve tickets at any time, use message machine - 966-6618, or order your ticket from phoner who will be contacting USRA members shortly.

Reserved tickets will be held at the door. Rush tickets should be available.

Have fun and bring anyone who might need to be surrounded by laughter and will contribute to it.

Each ticket holder should bring to the reception two jokes, printed or handwritten, on either individual 4 x 6 cards or sheets of paper. They will be used for table fun during the evening's program.

Join Mickey & Eleanor to Laugh Heartily

Mickey Maclellan (photo) believes that folks should "Lighten Up." She is a retired teacher recommended to the USRA by a



member's wife who insisted that she is a very funny lady whose jokes she remembers and tells.

Rumour has it, Mickey is eighty-plus years young. She taught in rural Saskatchewan, as well as at City Park and Evan Hardy Collegiates in Saskatoon.

Eleanor Charman was recommended to USRA by a U of S Dean. She has "Join" continued on page four

Always overfill your tires is a myth!

Jay MacDonald & two automotive experts

This car myth masqueraded for decades as an insider's tip for getting better gas mileage with less wear and tear on your tires. It does neither, according to Martin.

"You want to keep your tires at the recommended pressure because if they're over-inflated, they wear one way, under-inflated they wear another," says Martin.

"Try to get even wear and rotate your tires every 7,500 miles."

Duchene agrees.

"It doesn't make a whole lot of difference on mileage," says the Oregon-based automotive writer. "As far as wear goes, it's better than under-filling them, and the reason is, for every pound that a tire is under the recommended pressure, it will run hotter and wear faster."

"If you ran a tire five pounds under the recommendation, it would last probably 20 percent less."

from Netscape

*Coming in May, so, be ready to mark your
calendar for a grand time with maestro
David Kaplan*



**HE WILL BE BRINGING TO THE FACULTY
CLUB SOME OF THE UNIQUE
INSTRUMENTS IN HIS COLLECTION TO
TALK ABOUT THEM, TO PLAY THEM AND
TO LET YOU TRY THEM.
WHAT MORE ENTERTAINING WAY TO
SPEND AN EVENING AT A USRA
GET-TOGETHER?**

President's Chatterbox continued from page one

WHAT: "The Laughter Remedy"
WHEN: April 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Faculty Club, U of S
Price: \$10.00

To continue the theme of light hearted entertainment, we plan to present Dr. David Kaplan's "Musical Instruments of the World" around the end of May. The exact date will be placed in our next Newsletter.

Tours of the Kinesiology Building and the Synchrotron are also being planned. Pertinent information will be forwarded to you in advance of each event. We also will phone those in the metropolitan Saskatoon area to remind you of coming events.

We need your support, so please join us for a relaxing evening and a wee bit of fun.

If you have any suggestions, advice, or concerns which might help us be more effective in conducting our affairs, please call us at 966-6618 and leave a message. Thanks in advance.

Now I repeat a lecture of sorts. Because the Faculty Club requires specific numbers in order to make the necessary preparations for the evening, we would deeply appreciate your help in purchasing your tickets on or before Monday, April 4th, 2004, for the evening of "The LAUGHTER Remedy."

If you purchase a ticket but find that you cannot attend the event, please inform the USRA office. It is essential that we know a ticket holder's decision not to attend "The Laughter Remedy" before April 4, 2004.

The Faculty Club, like almost all restaurants, prepares for the numbers given them at a specified date. If attendance falls below the number reported, the USRA becomes liable for the ticket price of "no-shows". On the other hand, it would be a delightful difficulty to overcome if we had to accommodate many last minute guests, so come and enjoy.

"Join" continued from page four

worked at Kelsey Institute with Basic Education students for two decades.

Over the years, she enrolled in two humour courses at Saratoga Springs, N Y. She titles one of her workshops, "Jest for the Health of It." The participation workshop demonstrates and discusses how humor decreases stress, anxiety, tension and pain, as Cousins thought it would.

She and Mickey Maclellan will have the group share in activities that help us have fun, discover humor wherever we are, make us dare to be playful and, above all, be able to laugh at ourselves.

Seems like a tall order, but it should be an evening well spent. So, reserve your ticket early for April 7th, and have a rousing good time.

IN MEMORIAM**Leon Katz**

Leon Katz, a member of the Order of Canada, died at the age of 94. He was a renowned scientist and retired University of Saskatchewan physics professor. Katz was a driving force behind the linear accelerator - the forerunner to the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron.

"In the early 1960s, he was responsible for getting what is called the linear accelerator in Saskatoon," said Jack Bergstrom, a retired physics professor who now works with the synchrotron.

Katz was one of the first members of the Science Council of Canada and was the first director of the Science Policy Secretariat to the Saskatchewan Science Council. He was on the board of Innovation Place for 22 years, and was the author of more than 50 scientific papers on thermodynamics, chaos theory and radar.

Said about him:

---He was a dreamer.

---He had a way of taking rather complicated things and expressing them in very simple terms.

---He was a mentor to young people.

---(He got) funding for a major nuclear physics laboratory, in Saskatoon of all places.

Leon Katz is survived by his wife of 63 years, Georgina, and their four children.

Adapted from *Star-Phoenix* article (04-03-04)

Raymond C. Nicholson

Raymond C. Nicholson, retired Professor of Agriculture Economics at the U of S from 1961-1992, died at the age 78. He received his BSA in Agriculture Economics in 1950, earned his Masters Degree in 1957 and Ph.D. from Purdue University in Indiana in 1961.

Dr. Nicholson served on many commissions and boards such as Canfarm, and the Hog Marketing Commission. He was a resource for all his students from diverse locations in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. He chaired the Faculty Association for two years.

In later years, he spent many happy days with his fellows at the the residence center, accepting his diagnosis of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's with grace.

Ray is survived by his wife Bea, two children and three grand children.

Adapted from *Star-Phoenix* obituary

